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June 21, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
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Art Unit 1645

Re: U.S. National Phase of PCT/CA00/01150
Application No. 10/089,177; § 371 Date: March 27, 2002
For: **Highly Conserved Genes and Their Use to Generate Species-Specific, Genus-Specific, Family-Specific, Group-Specific and Universal Nucleic Acid Probes and Amplification Primers to Rapidly Detect and Identify Algal, Archaeal, Bacterial, Fungal, and Parasitical Microorganisms from Clinical Specimens for Diagnosis**
Inventors: Bergeron *et al.*
Our Ref: 1619.0090000/SRL/TAC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Status Inquiry Letter; and
2. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
June 21, 2004
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Teresa A. Colella
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 51,575

SRL/TAC/dms

278405-1



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Bergeron *et al.*

Appl. No.: 10/089,177

(U.S. Nat'l. Phase of PCT/CA00/01150)

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For: **Highly Conserved Genes and Their Use to Generate Species-Specific, Genus-Specific, Family-Specific, Group-Specific and Universal Nucleic Acid Probes and Amplification Primers to Rapidly Detect and Identify Algal, Archaeal, Bacterial, Fungal, and Parasitical Microorganisms from Clinical Specimens for Diagnosis**

Confirmation No.: 9698

Art Unit: 1645

Examiner: *To be assigned*

Atty. Docket: 1619.0090000/SRL/TAC

Status Inquiry Letter

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PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please advise the undersigned of the present status of the above-identified patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

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Date: June 21, 2004

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